More Meat for Defense

Methods of obtaining more efficient livestock production.

Meat is a defense weapon. It is the main course food for fighters and workers. We must make every effort to produce enough meat for the battle front and the home front.

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SECRETARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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This booklet was prepared for your guidance by the Bureau of Animal Industry. Situations in brief and statistical summaries furnished by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

FOREWORD

To you who speak to farmers:

We need to produce more meat. Demand for meat increases with more jobs, more income, more men in the military services, and an increasing population.

There are practical limits to increasing the number of livestock because labor and feed supplies may become critical. We can, however, produce more meat in three ways: (1) by increasing livestock in areas where more roughage can be produced and used efficiently; (2) by protecting our livestock from diseases and pests; and (3) by improved breeding, feeding, and management.

Outlined here are facts on how much livestock we are producing and how we can improve that production. Each report highlights research and health activities of the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with State agencies, which include your State extension services and experiment stations, your State Departments of Agriculture and livestock sanitary boards.

Each report also outlines what farmers and stockmen can do. This is most important. The production job can be done only on farms and ranches, and by farmers and ranchers. The Department agencies concerned plan to issue more complete "fact sheets" on these points as they can be developed. In the meantime, we hope that you will use these suggestions as subjects for farm stories, broadcasts, advertising messages, demonstrations, and any other means of bringing these improved practices to the attention of livestock producers. You may want to keep this book as a file for additional livestock "facts" as they come to you.

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AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

PART I Foreign Livestock Diseases

Catastrophe could strike our livestock industry through disease. Rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, Asiatic or European Newcastle disease, and European fowl pest are constant threats. Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom from these and lesser livestock and poultry plagues.

The Bureau of Animal Industry has been building our country's defenses against foreign diseases during the 67 years of its existence. It was organized to eradicate contagious pleuropneumonia of cattle, and it did the job. Foot-and-mouth disease, fowl pest, and Asiatic Newcastle have on occasions penetrated our defenses. But each time they appeared, the Bureau and the States, working cooperatively, eradicated them. In the present period of national defense, guarding our supplies of food, fiber, and other strategic animal byproducts is a strict necessity.

THESE THINGS WE MUST DO

Guard our borders and ports of entry at all times against the introduction of dangerous livestock diseases.

Be ready to move rapidly to eradicate any such disease should it pierce our defenses.

USDA AND STATE AGENCIES ARE HELPING BY

Maintaining a careful watch on live animals, animal products, or even straw or litter that might carry the infection.

Broadening and tightening cooperative security measures at ports of entry with the help of such agencies as the Bureau of Customs, Public Health Service, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and military personnel.

Staying on the job in Mexico until foot-and-mouth disease is eradicated, and patrolling the Mexican border until all danger of the introduction of the disease is past.

Organizing effective teamwork between State livestock sanitary officials and the Bureau of Animal Industry so that all suspicious disease symptoms will be reported immediately on discovery.

Training key personnel to diagnose foreign diseases, and placing these trained men strategically about the country so that they can investigate, within a few hours, each suspicious case reported.

Preparing for spot mobilization of trained men and supplies to carry out necessary eradication measures through inspection, quarantine, slaughter of diseased and exposed animals, and disinfection of infected premises.

Enlisting the services of the press, radio, farm organizations, and livestock associations in assisting livestock owners to become familiar with methods of protecting their flocks and herds from disease.

FARMERS AND STOCKMEN SHOULD KNOW

The importance of closely observing their flocks and herds frequently to determine if disease symptoms are present.

That they should report immediately any suspicious symptoms of dangerous animal diseases to their State livestock sanitary official or to the Bureau of Animal Industry inspector in charge in their State.

That in carrying out the eradication of dangerous foreign diseases, owners have always been paid a fair indemnity for animals killed or property destroyed.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

PART II Domestic Livestock Diseases and Pests

Losses caused by diseases and parasites are by far the greatest single debit item in the ledger of the stockman and the poultryman. Under "business as usual" in 1951 we may expect:

1. At least 10 percent of all farm animals to die from disease or parasitism. Most of these will be young animals. The potential meat supply lost would feed 10,000,000 people for the entire year.

2. Even greater economic losses from animals affected by diseases and parasites that do not necessarily kill but maim, debilitate, cause abortion, sterility, and in general interfere with efficient production of meat, milk, eggs, and other animal products.

For example:

Brucellosis costs U. S. farmers more than $100,000,000 a year by reducing milk production 1 billion pounds, by causing more than 300,000 stillborn calves, and by permanently impairing reproduction in both beef and dairy animals.

Mastitis in a dairy herd conservatively adds 40 cents per hundred-weight to milk production costs and often reduces salable milk by one-third.

Newcastle disease in running its course can cut egg production by 50 percent during a 3-month period. Deterioration in both egg weight and quality lasts for 6 to 7 months. Up to one-third of the flocks in certain crowded commercial areas have become infected.

Coccidiosis produces severe hemorrhage in calves, lambs, and poultry and causes losses exceeding $50,000,000 a year in death and debility.

These, and many other diseases and pests, are the "barnyard bandits" that rob farmers of income and consumers of milk and meat. Once established they are costly to control or eradicate. Prevention through sanitation and sound husbandry practices can easily increase our meat production by 5 to 10 percent. Stop the barnyard bandits before they reach your farm.

THIS WE MUST DO

Save more meat and animal products by using to the fullest extent the knowledge gained through research and experience in the eradication and control of animal diseases and pests.

USDA AND STATE AGENCIES ARE HELPING BY

Maintaining inspection of all animals coming into major public stockyards and preventing the spread of diseases by promptly diagnosing any disease, tracing it to its source, and enforcing quarantine and eradication measures.

Developing new and improved vaccines, serums, and other biologics for diagnosing and preventing such destructive diseases of livestock and poultry as brucellosis, tuberculosis, mastitis, hog cholera, Newcastle disease, and fowl paralysis.

Assuring safe and standard supplies of these biologics under authority provided by law.

Developing anthelmintics, internal medicines and dips and determining their effectiveness in ridding animals of internal and external parasites.

Finding sanitary management methods for preventing parasites and diseases; assisting in promoting the application of these methods.

Reducing loss of meat through shrinkage and bruises, and reducing damage to hides through lacerations and other injuries in shipment, by enforcing Federal regulations to insure safe and humane handling of livestock shipped in interstate commerce. Such measures include (1) unloading animals at stated intervals for feed, water, and rest at stations with proper facilities and (2) insuring good animal husbandry practices during shipment.

Reducing the incidence of brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle through active Federal - State programs.

Coordinating a National Poultry Improvement Plan, whereby heritable diseases of poultry are prevented or controlled through fumigation and other sanitary practices outlined for commercial hatcheries and key flock owners supplying hatching eggs.

FARMERS AND STOCKMEN CAN HELP BY

Putting into constant practice, to the best of their ability, measures for sanitation and disease control -- with special emphasis in feed lots and in commercial dairy herds where crowded animals create increased hazards.

Insuring that foundation stock is kept healthy by bringing in only replacements that have been tested or vaccinated for major diseases; isolating animal replacements for a few days before permitting them to mingle with other animals on the farm or ranch.

Watching for disease symptoms, loss of appetite, and other abnormalities.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION... *Continued*

Reporting at once any unfamiliar animal disease to a veterinarian or State livestock sanitary official and obtaining immediate diagnosis.

Isolating sick animals and insuring proper disposal of those that die from disease.

Immunizing against diseases that previously have caused losses in the neighborhood. Many diseases of virus or bacterial origin can be prevented, but cures are ineffective after the diseases strike.

Immunizing young animals against disease early in life for quicker, better, and more economical protection.

Preventing parasitism, especially in young animals, when they are most susceptible.

Buying chicks from hatcheries that have adequate pullorum testing programs.

Testing for brucellosis, removing or isolating reactors, and vaccinating young calves against the disease.

Cooperating with livestock sanitary officials in carrying out necessary control and eradication measures.

BEEF PRODUCTION

SITUATION IN BRIEF

Trends: The United States began to import more beef than was exported for the first time in 1914. Although cattle numbers have continued a higher trend throughout this half century, beef production has increased more rapidly than numbers of animals, as improved management practices increased the beef produced per head. Beef consumption per person in 1950 was still short of that in 1900, although higher than in most of the 1920's and 1930's. (For details see page 19)

Outlook: Cattle numbers are now rising and will probably continue upward for a few years, unless drought prevents. Total beef production is also climbing slowly. Cattle prices to producers have been favorable in relation to other farm products, and with strong consumer demand for meats, they are likely to remain so. Extensive grain feeding of cattle, which has been important in holding up both the quantity and quality of beef production, will probably continue large in 1951. Its trend later will depend on feed supplies and price relationships.

THIS WE MUST DO

Produce as many pounds of beef as available forage will support in line with good farm planning.

USDA AND STATE AGENCIES ARE HELPING BY:

- Searching out best uses of forage to produce beef.
- Determining what feed supplements to forage will give most efficient production.
- Studying the effects of varying feed intake of beef cattle resulting from seasonal and climatic changes, to determine how best to supplement forage for highest gains.
- Discovering, through testing programs, family lines of fast-growing, fast-gaining animals that will yield good meat carcasses.
- Planning methods of management to increase forage production and prolong the grazing season on high-quality pasture.
- Developing practical methods, on an area basis, of ridding cattle of grubs, thereby saving meat and leather urgently needed in the defense effort.
- Studying those diseases and parasites affecting cattle to find ways of cutting losses of meat, hides, and other animal products.
- Preventing spread of communicable diseases and pests from public stockyards, giving particular attention to animals moving back to farms as stockers, feeders, or herd replacements; regulating movement of animals to provide humane treatment at all times.
- Planning the lay-out, equipment, and management for obtaining the most efficient production.
- Producing a maximum of forage to use throughout the year and raising all the cattle that can be supported on that forage.

FARMERS AND STOCKMEN CAN HELP BY:

✓ Using as little milk and grain and as much roughage as possible in raising calves for slaughter.

✓ Feeding young cattle to a moderate finish, using as much roughage and as little grain as possible; feeding older cattle on such levels as will result in most economical gain.

✓ Supplementing permanent pastures with seasonal pastures.

✓ Making the best use of feed supplies by short feeding common cattle, feeding good-quality cattle to a good finish, and choice cattle to a choice finish.

✓ Feeding veal calves to heavier weights than has been done in the past, within the limits of labor and feed supplies.

✓ Protecting the breeding herd by building up feed reserves, particularly hay and silage, to meet any emergency brought about by changing climatic conditions.

✓ Feeding a balanced diet in the feed lot to get a suitable finish as quickly as possible.

✓ Correcting known mineral deficiencies.

✓ Selecting breeding stock that will insure fast-growing animals and good meat carcasses.

✓ Culling aged, diseased and barren cows; retaining as many healthy heifers and cows in calf that available feed will support.

✓ Dehorning and castrating calves at the first opportunity after birth.

✓ Preventing losses from pests and diseases; cooperating with Federal-State authorities in eradicating brucellosis, tuberculosis, and scabies.

PORK PRODUCTION

SITUATION IN BRIEF

Trends: Pork exports declined sharply beginning about the mid-1920's, and we have only small exports now. The pig crop in 1950 was larger than in any other peacetime year, and the hog-corn price ratio a little above average. Consumption of pork per person in 1950 was larger than the prewar average and about equal to that in 1900, the early 1920's and the early 1930's. (For details see page 19)

Outlook: A further increase is expected in pork production in 1951, resulting from the strengthening demand for meat during 1950 together with ample feed supplies. In the absence of special encouragement, hog production may level off in the next year or two.

THIS WE MUST DO

Obtain the maximum amount of pork and pork products for every hour of labor and every pound of feed used in the effort.

USDA AND STATE AGENCIES ARE HELPING BY:

- Breeding for prolific hogs that will make fast, efficient gains and yield carcasses with a high percentage of good-quality cuts.
- Determining what nutrients can be used most efficiently by hogs when translated into available feedstuffs; evaluating agricultural, industrial, and household wastes as possible sources of feed.

- Intensifying the study of means for preventing and controlling swine diseases and parasites causing heavy losses on farms.

- Combining knowledge of breeding, nutrition, and health into practical farm management.

- Preventing spread of communicable diseases and pests from public stockyards, giving particular attention to animals moving back to farms as stockers, feeders, or herd replacements; regulating movement of animals to provide humane treatment at all times.

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FARMERS AND STOCKMEN CAN HELP BY:

A. Planning their breeding program

✓ Select fast-growing meat-type gilts from high-production lines. Use boars of similar or better quality. Save sows that wean large litters.

✓ Choose medium-type animals, with long bodies and well-developed udders containing 12 to 14 teats.

✓ Strive for the greatest hybrid vigor possible for rapid and economical growth.

✓ Keep breeding and production records.

B. Providing proper care during gestation

✓ Feed the brood sow adequately during gestation; give her a balanced diet.

✓ Clean farrowing pen thoroughly with hot water and lye to prevent diseases and pests. Three days before farrowing time, wash the sow thoroughly, and place her in clean farrowing quarters.

Feed the sow a cooling laxative diet before farrowing.

C. Providing proper care during suckling

✓ Resume full-feeding the sow gradually to prevent nutritional disturbances in pigs.

✓ Watch litters carefully for the first 3 days. Half the pigs lost during the suckling period are lost during this time.

✓ Haul sow and pigs to clean ground when pigs are 10 to 14 days of age. Full-feed the sow.

✓ Give pigs a fast start in life by following a time schedule. Castrate male pigs at 2 weeks; start creep-feeding at 3 to 4 weeks; vaccinate at 6 to 8 weeks; wean at 8 weeks; and treat if necessary for internal and external parasites at 10 weeks of age.

D. Providing proper care during growing and fattening

✓ Self-feed weanlings an adequate diet, preferably on legume pasture. Remember that 3 pounds of a balanced diet is worth more than 5 pounds of grain alone.

✓ Separate breeding stock from fattening stock at 20 weeks of age, and feed the former a growing instead of a fattening ration. Give second treatment for parasites if necessary.

✓ Have most hogs ready for market at about 225 pounds live weight and at 6 months of age. Feed to heavier weights according to market demands and feed supplies.

✓ Slaughter hogs under conditions that insure conserving all parts of the animal that can be used in any way.

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LAMB AND WOOL PRODUCTION

SITUATION IN BRIEF

Trends: There has been a downswing from record high sheep numbers in January 1942 to a record low in 1950. Numbers may have about stabilized between January 1950 and January 1951. Production of lamb and mutton in 1950 was the smallest since the early 1920's, and the rate of consumption per person was the lowest on record. Prices for sheep, lambs and wool at the end of 1950 were at or near all-time highs. (For details see page 19)

Outlook: Prices for lambs and especially for wool are likely to continue very high. Numbers of sheep and lambs may increase slowly. Annual production of lamb and mutton cannot rise much for several years.

THIS WE MUST DO

Raise more sheep wherever labor and forage are available for expansion, particularly on farms. Farm sheep are profitable, require a small amount of labor, make the best use of roughage, and they *can* be protected from predators and parasites.

USDA AND STATE AGENCIES ARE HELPING BY:

- Continuing research aimed at increasing the percentage of lamb crop, improving the rate of growth of the lambs, and the weight and quality of wool.
- Determining how to eradicate or control diseases and parasites affecting sheep in order to cut losses and make meat and wool production more efficient.
- Eradicating sheep scabies in areas where the infection still exists.

- Improving purebreds, and testing crossbred combinations to increase production and quality of both meat and wool.
- Finding ways of supplementing permanent pastures and range with annual forages for grazing and haying in order to provide ample year-around roughage and grazing.
- Preventing spread of communicable diseases and pests from public stockyards, giving particular attention to animals moving back to farms as stockers, feeders, or herd replacements; regulating movement of animals to provide humane treatment at all times.

FARMERS AND STOCKMEN CAN HELP BY:

A Applying the following flock-management practices

- ✓ Flush ewes at breeding time, and so feed them that they will gain weight gradually 4 to 6 weeks before lambing.
- ✓ Provide a clean, dry, lambing shelter.
- ✓ Dock and castrate lambs within 7 to 14 days after birth.
- ✓ Dose lambs with phenothiazine when they show signs of anemia or unthriftiness.
- ✓ Keep ewes well-nourished during the suckling period.
- ✓ Have lambs ready for market at weaning time, which is at about 140 days of age. Creep-feed if pastures are poor.
- ✓ Select ewe lambs for replacement breeding stock when other lambs go to market.
- ✓ Dip the flock to destroy sheep keds after shearing and when the shear cuts have healed.
- ✓ Watch for symptoms of scabies and report the infection to State livestock sanitary officials.

B. Applying the following protections for wool quality

- ✓ Use scourable branding fluid to maintain identity of sheep between shearings.
- ✓ Mow pastures to keep down burrs and brush.
- ✓ Use management practices that will keep wool free of unnecessary trash.
- ✓ Keep sheep dry at shearing time.
- ✓ Remove heavy tags and dung locks in the fleece.
- ✓ Tie fleeces securely and separately with paper fleece twine.
- ✓ Hire an expert shearer if the farmer or shepherd is not experienced at the job.
- ✓ Keep wool stored in a dry place, preferably in bags designed for the purpose.

POULTRY PRODUCTION

SITUATION IN BRIEF

Trends: Total egg production in the United States has more than doubled since the five year period 1909-13. Production just about kept pace with our rise in population during the years from this period to 1935-39. Since that time, however, egg production has increased nearly four times as fast as our population. Peak per capita consumption of eggs, and of chicken and turkey meat, too, came in 1945 when consumer buying power was high, red meats were under rationing, and feed supplies were abundant. In 1950, the cost of feed was higher in relation to the price of chickens than the normal average; but the price of eggs in relation to feed improved sharply and was a little above the normal average by the end of the year. Current price ratios are considered favorable enough to maintain poultry and egg production at high levels. (For details see page 19)

Outlook: Supplies and per capita civilian consumption of eggs, chicken, and turkey probably will be about the same in 1951 as in 1950 -- below the record high of 1945 but above the levels of most other years.

THIS WE MUST DO

Maintain egg and poultry production with the fewest layers and the best use of feed and labor.

USDA AND STATE AGENCIES ARE HELPING BY:

- Conducting research on more efficient methods of egg and poultry meat production and improvement of their quality.

- Breeding for rapid-growing meat-type strains and high egg producers.

- Determining the best use of feed in producing poultry meat and eggs. As a result of this study, 3 pounds of feed is now producing the same amount of meat that 4 pounds produced 10 years ago -- it takes ½ pound less feed to produce a dozen eggs.

- Determining nutrient requirements of poultry and how to supply these with known feed ingredients; continuing to search for new ingredients; and evaluating agricultural and industrial wastes as possible sources of poultry feed.

- Developing improved incubation and brooding practices; keeping the hatchery industry informed on technical advancements in these fields.

- Providing standards of measuring quality of eggs and poultry meat.

- Identifying sources of superior breeding stock.

- Investigating diseases and parasites of poultry to find practical means of eradicating them.

- Aiding in preventing disease through the National Poultry Improvement Plan, which has already helped to reduce the incidence of pullorum disease by as much as 4/5 in hatcheries and breeding flocks during the past 15 years; applying, through NPIP, results or research in feeding, breeding, and disease control.

FARMERS AND STOCKMEN CAN HELP BY:

✓ Buying good-quality chicks bred specifically for meat or egg production.

✓ Buying from hatcheries that do adequate pullorum testing.

✓ Buying nearby chicks when local and distant chicks of the same quality are available.

✓ Preparing brooder houses before chicks arrive; providing a clean, warm, dry house with adequate feeding, watering, and brooding equipment.

✓ Feeding adequate rations -- all the poultry will eat all the time.

✓ Feeding rations for the purpose for which they were made -- starting mash, broiler mash, and breeding mash to the appropriate birds.

✓ Using deep litter for disease and parasite control and for labor saving.

✓ Vaccinating against Newcastle disease, laryngotracheitis, and fowl pox in localities where these diseases are prevalent.

✓ Selecting fast-growing chicks and marketing at preferred weights -- broilers should reach market weight of 3 pounds within 10 weeks; turkeys should be marketed at 22 to 26 weeks.

✓ Retaining a maximum percentage of pullets for laying -- an all-pullet flock when feasible.

✓ Keeping all the poultry the farm facilities and labor supply will allow, or only enough poultry for the family table.

✓ Culling nonlayers from the flock monthly.

✓ Producing and marketing clean fresh eggs.

LONG-TIME PRODUCTION TRENDS

A half century ago (1900), American farmers produced enough meat to export 1.4 billion pounds in addition to enough for the average person in this country to eat 150 pounds. A few years later, people began to eat less and less meat, chiefly because output did not keep up with the increase in the population. Later, during the depression, low buying power discouraged production and the droughts reduced it more, so consumption fell to a low of 116.7 pounds per capita. Buying power and production both picked up after that -- and civilian consumption hit a record high of 155 pounds in 1947. In 1950, civilian per capita meat consumption was around 145 pounds.

The outlook for 1951 is: meat production, 3 to 5 percent greater than last year -- enough to supply a little more for civilians as well as more for the Armed Forces; ample feed supplies; and a greater increase in demand than in production (resulting from increased employment, higher consumer incomes, and larger requirements for the Armed Forces).

BEEF

YEAR	NUMBER ON FARMS JANUARY 1		CALF CROP	PRODUCTION[2]		NET EXPORTS OF BEEF AND VEAL[3]	CIVILIAN CONSUMPTION PER PERSON	
	ALL CATTLE AND CALVES	BEEF CATTLE[1]		BEEF	VEAL		BEEF	VEAL
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1900.....	59,739	-	-	5,628	397	524	67	5.2
1929.....	58,877	26,975	24,355	5,871	761	-187	49	6.3
1937-41 av.	67,488	31,674	29,291	7,195	1,022	-161	56	7.7
1942	76,025	37,188	34,388	8,843	1,151	[5] -178	61	8.2
1945	85,573 (high)	44,724	35,176	10,275	1,661	[5] -91	59	11.8
1950[4].....	80,277	43,012	-	9,550	1,225	-275	63	8

[1] Cattle and calves not kept for milk.
[2] From all slaughter, including farm.
[3] Exports, including shipments to Territories, less imports. Minus sign means net imports. In terms of carcass weight equivalent.
[4] Preliminary estimates.
[5] Commercial only. Excludes large overseas shipments for lend-lease, UNRRA and other programs.

PORK

YEAR	ANNUAL PIG CROP	HOG–CORN PRICE RATIO[1]	PORK PRODUCTION[2]	NET EXPORTS OF PORK[3]	CIVILIAN CONSUMPTION OF PORK PER PERSON
	1,000 head		Million pounds	Million pounds	Pounds
1900	–	–	6,329	854	72
1929	76,125	10.9	8,833	399	69
1937–41 av.	77,229	12.8	8,573	106	64
1942	104,903	16.5	10,876	[5]64	63
1943	121,807 (high)	13.6	13,640	[5]30	78
1945	86,782	12.8	10,697	[5]32	66
1950[4]	100,654	13.7	10,870	78	70

[1] U. S. average, prices as received by farmers.
[2] From all slaughter, including farm. Excludes lard.
[3] Exports, including shipments to Territories, less imports.
[4] Preliminary estimates.
[5] Commercial only. Excludes large overseas shipments for lend-lease, UNRRA and other programs.

LAMB AND MUTTON

YEAR	NUMBER SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FARMS JANUARY 1	LAMB CROP	PRODUCTION OF LAMB AND MUTTON[1]	NET EXPORTS OF LAMB AND MUTTON[2]	CIVILIAN CONSUMPTION OF LAMB AND MUTTON PER PERSON
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1900	48,105	–	493	0.7	6.5
1929	48,381	26,903	682	–2.6	5.6
1937–41 av.	51,857	30,639	884	[3]2.8	6.7
1942	56,213 (high)	32,312	1,042	[3]3.8	7.2
1945	46,520	27,042	1,054	[3]4.3	7.3
1950[4]	30,797 (low)	18,431	601	2	4.0

[1] From all slaughter, including farm.
[2] Exports, including shipments to Territories, less imports.
[3] Commercial only. Excludes shipments for lend-lease, UNRRA and other programs.
[4] Preliminary estimates.

POULTRY AND EGGS

YEAR	EGG[1] PRODUCTION	EGG CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA (CIVILIAN)	EGG–FEED[2] PRICE RATIO	PRODUCTION OF TURKEY AND CHICKEN (DRESSED WT.)	CIVILIAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF CHICKEN AND TURKEY	CHICKEN–FEED PRICE RATIO	TURKEY–FEED PRICE RATIO
	Mil. doz.	Number	Pounds	Mil. lbs.	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1909–13	2,532	309	–	–	–	–	–
1935–39	3,335	298	12.3	2,677	20.6	8.5	9.2
1945	5,120	397	13.4	4,843	33.1	8.9	11.5
1950	5,448	384	10.3	4,720	31.0	6.4	8.8

[1] Includes allowance for nonfarm production.
[2] 1 dozen eggs will buy pounds indicated.

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY FACTS

Fifty-five to 60 cents of every dollar received by farmers come from livestock or livestock products.

Five out of every 6 farmers are engaged in some kind of livestock enterprise.

Livestock farming is conservation farming. Converting forage and grain into meat, milk and eggs is the only system of farming that does not rob the soil of fertility, which, under other systems, must be replaced.

Neglect is greatest cause of animal losses in the United States. More than 1/3 of all young animals that fail to survive die within the first three days of life.

Preventable injuries sustained in the shipping of livestock cost farmers 20 to 25 million dollars a year.

Abandoning the battle against animal diseases would spell doom of livestock production as it is practiced in the United States. Our healthy animals are far more susceptible to disease than remnants of unthrifty livestock populations in countries where diseases are allowed to run their course.

Science in breeding and feeding has contributed greatly to the productive capacity of U. S. livestock. For example: 3 pounds of feed will produce as many pounds of poultry meat as 4 pounds produced 10 years ago; in the same period feed requirements were reduced ½ pound to produce a dozen eggs.